

Home About Us Church Growth Directory Leadership Ministry New Church News TAP Donate



Monday, 21 Mar 2011

News

Breaking News

Feature Focus

Celebrate

Conference News

Local Church News

Lifting Up...

NEWS Archives

Upcoming Events

SEC News Resources

SECUCC eNewsletter

Sign up for SECUCC

Email Newsletter

Southeast Conference FAQ's

Who is the SEC?

Who is the UCC?

How Do I Find a UCC Church?

What Ministries are Available?

Is Training Available?

YOU ARE HERE: [HOME](#) ► [CONFERENCE NEWS](#)

Conference News - February



End of the Year SEC Financial Report

The end of the year financial report shows **GOOD** news and **BAD** news. The bad news is that we once again ended the year with a deficit of \$21,500. The good news is that this deficit is less than the deficit in 2009, of \$24,500. Our OCWM Basic Support is up from last year \$8,500 to \$285,000. Our goal for 2011 is to raise OCWM Basic Support by 15%, which, with our savings in administration and operations, means we could both not have a deficit and increase our giving to the national church. Given these challenging times, we remain deeply grateful for the giving from our local churches.

As we move into 2011, the Board of Directors has approved a budget of \$521,200, which is down \$140,000 from 2010 reflecting slower grant income activity and continual reduction in operating and administrative costs. The projected deficit for 2011 is \$8,000.

> [SEC 2010 Financials](#)

> Follow link to [review the SEC 2011 Budget](#)

SEC Board of Directors Meeting Updates / February 12



• **Kathy Clark** reported on the continuing development of Pathways, a four-year online certificate program to equip people for lay and authorized ministries in the United Church of Christ. The program is being developed in collaboration with the Center for Progressive Renewal, and Lancaster Theological Seminary, and is scheduled for launch in the fall of 2011.

• **Debbie Spearman** reported that about one half of our churches have responded to the Campaign to Transform Churches and

Transform Lives. 19 churches have pledged 11 have declined to pledge, 6 have committed to pledge, but not to an amount at this time. We are seeking responses for another 14 churches. Transforming Churches - Transforming Lives pledges to date amount to \$486,365. We are well on our way to our goal of \$1.4 million.



UCC News

UCC Newsroom

Headlines from the United Church of Christ

N.Y. teen offers 'All-Star' efforts to Heifer International

A 15-year-old member of St. Peter's UCC in West Seneca, N.Y., is singing and strumming up a storm for the popular mission-driven organization.



- **Gerri Ryons Hudson** reported she is in the midst of end of the year activities. She is closing the books, collecting information from churches, and updating data. In addition, she is now beginning the process of registering and making arrangements for General Synod delegates.
- **Tim Downs** reported that we are always facing the question, "how do we build on our strengths and attend to the creative and generative places of conference life and not become distracted by those parts of ministry which have little hope of growth. We are beginning to live into our relationship with the Center for Progressive Renewal, which is providing us training and technical support for new church starts, online education, and church renewal. We have received two churches into the UCC in the last several months. Tim has served on two national search committees, and on several boards and committees in the national setting of the UCC.

- **SEC Annual Meeting 2011:** Given the declining attendance and growing deficits around the Conference Annual Meeting, a committee has met to make recommendations for changes.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

These are the High Lights:

The 2011 Conference Annual Meeting will be on **June 11th, at Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta.**

The focus will be on General Synod XXVIII.

Business will be kept to a minimum.

Worship will be shortened, and

opportunities for interaction and fellowship will be developed.

- **The Personnel Committee:** the Committee reported that they had performed annual reviews with all staff, and that they were pleased with the performance of everyone.
- **Nominations Solicited:** Delegate and representative searches have been completed for conference positions and those to serve on the Board of Justice and Witness ministries.
- **History Project:** The board received the report from Mike Stroud of the progress of the history project, in which Mike is engage in research to prepare for the writing of the history of the Conference of the occasion of its 50th anniversary in 2016.
- **Our Delegates to the Boards of Directors of the Covenanted Ministries of the UCC:**
We have received reports from each our representatives to the national setting.

Dorinda Broadnax, Executive Council

Elizabeth Clement, Office of General Ministries and the Unified Governance Task Force

Susannah Davis, Local Church Ministries

John Gill, Justice and Witness Ministries

Marcia Bentley, Wider Church Ministries.

Southeast Conference Begins to Organize For General Synod in Tampa

General Synod XXVIII, will be held in Tampa, FL, July 1st-5th. It is our hope that the Southeast Conference, which has a long history of sending many visitors to

General Synod, will be abundantly represented. Each morning of General Synod, the Southeast Conference delegates and visitors gather for breakfast and briefings. We will have a list on all those from the Southeast Conference attending Synod, and we will be in touch with you with details.

The SEC Delegation

We would like to introduce you to our delegation, which represents all of our associations and reflect the great diversity of our conference.



They are:

Class of 2012 (Attending Synod in 2009 and 2011)

• **Jim Crabb:** Jim is a member of Central Congregational UCC, a former moderator of the church, and currently vice-moderator of the Conference. He is married to Marion, and they are the parents of three boys. Jim is an engineer.

• **Jeremy Rich:** Jeremy is the pastor of Bethany Congregational UCC, Thomasville, GA, a TAP participant, and licensed for ministry. He is a schoolteacher.

• **Bette Graves Thomas:** Bette is a lifelong member of First Congregational UCC, Atlanta, a proud grandmother, and the administrator of First Church. Bette is the secretary of the Board of the Conference. She is a retired school teacher.

Class of 2014 (Attending Synod in 2011 and 2013)

• **Susanne Tew-Washburn:** Susanne is an assistant professor at Troy State University, a member of Sandy Creek UCC, in Lafayette, AL. She currently serves on the personnel committee of the Conference. Susanne is married to Wayde Washburn, moderator of the East Alabama-West Georgia Association.

• **Jennifer Spears:** Jennifer, a member of Garden of Grace UCC, in Columbia, SC, is seeking a license for ministry in the Georgia-South Carolina Association. Jennifer is a TAP participant, a journalist, and is married to Lois.

• **Christophe Ringer:** Christophe is the pastor of Howard Congregational UCC in Nashville. Recently ordained in the UCC, he is a candidate for a PhD at Vanderbilt University. He is married to Kim Peeler, who is also seeking a doctoral degree from Vanderbilt.

• **Wesley Farrell-Williams:** A member of First Congregational UCC, Atlanta, graduates from high school this year. He has been active in the youth activities of First Church.

Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors and SEC Board of Directors:

Chris Lyman Waldron | Praxis UCC



Save the Date

The Theology Among the People (TAP) Annual Banquet and Commencement will take place on Saturday,

August 27, 2011, in Atlanta from noon to 4:30 p.m. There will be a special

program, meal, and worship during which this year's graduates will be honored. Watch for more details!

SEC Upcoming Association Meetings

Georgia-South Carolina Association

Schedules Annual Meeting Hosted by Victory Church in Stone Mountain April 16th Circle your calendars and plan to join us on Saturday April 16th at Victory Church in Stone Mountain. The meeting will include an Annual Meeting, and a called Ecclesiastical Council at which we will have at least two candidates for ordination speaking to us, as well as acting to receive Peace Congregational UCC, Clemson, SC into the UCC as a full congregation. Peace is a new church start under the leadership of Susie Smith, and has grown to 70-80 in worship in three years. More details will follow in next month's newsletter.

Alabama-Tennessee Association

Schedules Annual Meeting May 13-14 in Chattanooga While there are more details to come, the Alabama-Tennessee Association has scheduled its Annual Meeting to be hosted at Pilgrim Congregational UCC Chattanooga on Friday, May 13th and Saturday May 14th. Program planning is underway, and an ecclesiastical council is being scheduled.

UCCOSSN Annual Meeting

The supporting hands of the on-going ministries of the United Church of Christ is holding its 2011 Annual Meeting "Go Tell It On the Mountains." The meeting, hosted by **First Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC** | North Conway, NH will be April 28-May 1. We are the **Office Support Staff** from local churches, conferences and national agencies and instrumentalities. We look forward to meeting with you this April. Follow the links below for additional event information.

- [**UCCOSSN 2011 Annual Meeting Flyer**](#)
- [**UCCOSSN 2011 Annual Meeting Hotel Reservation**](#)
- [**UCCOSSN 2011 Annual Meeting Registration Form**](#)

Online Courses (5 weeks) being offered through the Center for Progressive Renewal this March:
> **March 7 - April 11**
Church Planting 101

> **March 21 - April 25**

Faith Formation in, and



THE CENTER FOR

for, the Inventive Age

> March 31 - May 13
Appreciative Inquiry
(A.I.) Leads Change

PROGRESSIVE
RENEWAL

<< Start < Prev 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 Next > End >>

Page 1 of 8

Latest News	Most Read Articles
Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Relief 2011	Southeast Conference UCC (SEC)
A Word From Tim Downs - February	UCC History and Polity
Conference News - February	Southeast Conference Campaign
News From Our Local Churches - February	Steps to Planting a New Church
Lifting Up... February	General Synod 2011

SECUCC CONTACTS

- ▶ Conference Minister
- ▶ TAP Director
- ▶ SEC Donations
- ▶ Church Development
- ▶ Communications Director

SECUCC RESOURCES

- ▶ Annual Meeting
- ▶ Global Theological Education
- ▶ Local Church News
- ▶ SEC Churches
- ▶ Seminars/Webinars

FAVORITE LINKS

- ▶ Bridge 4 Faith
- ▶ The Center for Progressive Renewal
- ▶ United Church of Christ
- ▶ Mission Insite
- ▶ Resource Center

EVENTS CALENDAR

« < March 2011 > »						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

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